

Changing Lives in Chongwe Charity No. 1106904 anngreenh@gmail.com

Dear Friends of CLinC,

It is time to write our quarterly newsletter to let you know how things are going in Zambia.

Elections in Zambia - On August 12th, Zambia held a General election to appoint a new president as well as many other government positions. There was a lot of unrest during the election period. There were two candidates, Edgar Lungu stood again and Hakainde Hichilema stood for his 6th attempt. This time he was successful, partly by appealing to the younger voters with promises of more employment opportunities and three meals a day for all Zambians! After a short time in office he is discovering that the country is in more debt than he realised and claiming that the previous government were corrupt.

Covid situation - Since June the numbers of Covid-19 infections have continued to fall and everyone is hoping that the coming hot season will further reduce cases. The vaccination programme has been slow. Donations of vaccine have been received from many countries including the USA and UK but at the moment only 105,000 people out of 18 million have been double vaccinated!

St Mark's and St Anne's schools - All schools were closed during May to July but on August 5th, after a significant reduction in infections, Zambia opened schools for the examination grades. This meant that our grade 7 pupils at both St Mark's and St Anne's returned. We asked Kelvin and Alice to ensure that all pupils received a hot, nutritious meal twice a week using feeding programme money from term 2. All grades returned to school on August 26th.



CLinC will continue to pay the monthly teachers' pay and provide two meals a week for all children at both schools.

At the moment all parental contributions are being used to cover school expenses such as electricity, chlorine for water treatment, chalks, pens etc. When funds allow, CLinC will sent money for more textbooks.

As I write this, the exchange rate between the kwacha and pound is falling and term 3 is going to cost us a lot more than we had planned. Last term they received K30 for every pound we sent. This term it looks as if it will be around K20!



These are children from St Mark's school, enjoying games with the parachute we took for them when we visited in 2018. We also took lots of educational toys for the children. It is lovely to see them still enjoying them

Teacher training – Kelvin was due to graduate in July but, with college closures due to Covid, he is still waiting to take his final examinations.

Wendy and Charity are also in their final term and will graduate later this year. This



term's fees include their final examination and hire of gown for graduation. Alice and Mary have one more year to do at Mosa University. We are very pleased to have been able to give these young people a training that will hopefully improve their lives and the lives of hundreds of their pupils.

This is Kelvin and other Mosa University students celebrating end of exams!

New classroom project at St Anne's School.



Unfortunately the buildings chosen to be converted into classrooms were in a worse state than realised and had to be demolished. This has increased the cost of the project. CLinC has managed to send £1,000 towards this.

Members of St Anne's church

have also contributed around £1,100. A further sum will be sent along with our term 3 allowances to hopefully enable them to get the roof on before the rains come in November.



These are the two classrooms with a small storeroom between them. The next stage is the roof. This will cost around £7 a metre and there are 170m required! The roof slopes to the front of the building and hopefully they will add a gutter to collect the rain!

The security bars for both doors and windows have been fitted to keep the building safe and window panes and doors will be fitted later.

Fundraising news – This has been difficult during the pandemic and many events have been cancelled and opportunities to raise funds have been few and far between. However, we managed the following....

1. Five of the trustees ran the jam and craft stall at **Almondsbury Horse Show** on Sunday July 4th and raised £140 for the new classrooms.
2. Jams and facemasks continued to be sold at **Cromhall Shop** and have raised over £3,000 since last October.
3. We had a stall at a recent car boot sale but discovered that craft items were not high on people's lists! However, the £20 raised will buy 3m of roofing for the new classrooms!

Looking ahead

1. On Saturday Oct 2nd we are holding a supper/quiz evening in Cromhall Village Hall. I will attach a copy of the poster for those of you who live close enough to join us.
2. We are booked in for the Charities Fair in Wotton at the end of November. However, we are still awaiting confirmation that this will take place.
3. We also hope to hold a Christmas stall again outside Cromhall Shop in early December.
4. We are still making and selling masks, especially dressy one suitable for weddings or nights out!.....(.or for putting the bins out if you still consider this your weekly outing.....)

THANK YOU ..

..to those of you who have standing orders for monthly, quarterly or yearly donations. This does help us to plan ahead with confidence.

...to those of you who send an annual sum for grade 8&9 sponsorship. We will be sending the sponsorship money in early January.

Thank you all for your continued interest and support.

Without you, we couldn't do it.

Ann

On behalf of trustees of CLinC – September 2021